

Central Region Waterfowl Hunting Guide 2020-2021
Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife and Heritage Service
 3740 Gwynnbrook Avenue, Owings Mills, Maryland 21117
 410-356-9272

CENTRAL REGION PUBLIC HUNTING PERMIT AVAILABILITY

The Central Region Public Hunting Permit is required for all public designated waterfowl sites.		
Option A	Option B	Option C
Apply online at http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/publiclands/wmacentral.aspx Application processed within 1-2 business days. Permits sent via email.	Due to COVID-19 the Gwynnbrook Wildlife Office is CLOSED to the public. If you need assistance with your permit please call 410-356-9272. Closed All State Holidays.	Mail a copy of your hunting license, phone number, and vehicle tag # to the Gwynnbrook Office. Include a letter-sized envelope with return address and postage.
If you are hunting under the authority of a Lifetime License, a Nonresident 3-Day Waterfowl and Small Game License, or United States Armed Forces Leave Papers, please call the Gwynnbrook Wildlife Office for instructions on how to get your permit.		
The \$35 Managed Hunt Permit (MHP) is required for all State Park Waterfowl Sites. Indicated below by “MHP.” **The MHP is available anywhere licenses are sold. The Gwynnbrook Office does NOT sell licenses.** The MHP must be purchased before hunting one of these sites. Junior hunters are exempt from the MHP.		

WATERFOWL SITE RESERVATIONS

All waterfowl sites require a reservation to hunt unless otherwise specified.		
Reservations available by:	Phone-In 7:30am-11:30am No Walk-Ins for 2020-2021	Monday-Friday Closed all State Holidays
Limitations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunters may call a maximum of 4 calendar days prior to the day of the hunt. A hunter may only make 2 site reservations per phone call. A hunter may have only one advanced reservation per waterfowl site at a time. However, any sites not reserved for the current or next day will be available to any hunter, regardless of advanced reservations. A hunter may only hold one reservation for each individual day except for sites that are AM/PM reservations. A hunter may have both an AM and PM reservation, as long as they are different sites. Reservations left on the answering machine will not be honored and calls will not be returned. Waterfowl hunters may add additional hunters to an already reserved site on the answering machine. If unable to hunt, you MUST cancel your reservation at least one business day in advance so that another hunter may utilize the opportunity to hunt. Cancellations may be left on the answering machine. 		

WATERFOWL SITE REGULATIONS – ALL AREAS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum number of hunters at a waterfowl site is FOUR. Hunters must hunt within 50 feet of the blind or marker except when reserving a “Goose Field” or “Pond Site,” where a hunter may utilize any part of the field or pond. All hunters at a site must have a permit and a reservation, regardless of age. Hunters are not required to use provided pits or blinds. Decoys may not be placed earlier than 1 hour before shooting hours and must be removed by 1 hour after shooting hours. On properties open for waterfowl hunting, no waterfowl hunting may occur within 250 yards of a designated blind site. Waterfowl hunting on tidal shoreline is only permitted at an designated blind site. If sites are split by AM and PM, AM hunters must be off the site by noon and PM hunters may arrive at noon. Maryland Water Access Guide http://dnr.maryland.gov/Boating/Pages/water-access/boatramps.aspx
<p style="text-align: center;">All State, Federal, County, and Property hunting regulations apply.</p> <p>Failure to comply with any of these rules or regulations will result in a fine and/or suspension from the program. See the Central Region Public Hunting Program Packet for suspension information (Page 7).</p>

For information on public waterfowl hunting opportunities on the following areas please visit:

https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/offshore_intro.aspx

Potomac River
Offshore Waterfowl Hunting Zone

Sea Duck Zone
Offshore Blind Site Licensing

WMA and MHA DESIGNATED WATERFOWL SITES

All designated sites require the Central Region Public Hunting Permit and reservation unless otherwise noted.

All sites open for all waterfowl seasons unless otherwise noted.

Property	Site #	Blinds or Pits Available	Notes and Restrictions
Browns Branch WMA	Field 1	1 Blind	Fields may not be reserved until crops are harvested. Exact blinds locations may change from year to year. Reserved hunters may utilize any part of the field, including ponds. After January 31 sites are first-come, first-serve.
	Field 2	1 Blind	
	Field 3	1 Blind and 1 Pit	
Courthouse Point MHA	Site 1	1 Blind	Water in pond frequently gets very low. Site 4 is on the Elk River and has no blind. After January 31 sites are first-come, first-serve.
	Site 2	1 Blind	
	Site 3	1 Blind	
	Site 4	None	
Grove Farm WMA	Site 1	1 Blind	Fields may not be reserved until crops are harvested. Exact blind locations may change from year to year. Site 4 is on the Sassafras River and is water access only. All sites must be reserved September 1-January 31. After January 31 sites are first-come, first-serve. Reserved hunters may utilize any part of the field.
	Site 2	1 Blind	
	Site 3	1 Blind	
	Site 4	None	
	Site 5	1 Blind	
	Field 6	1 Blind	
	Field 7	1 Blind	
	Field 8	2 Blinds	
	Field 9	1 Blind	
Grove Neck MHA	Site 1	None	No blinds, located on the Sassafras River. Look for numbered signs. After January 31 sites are first-come, first-serve.
	Site 2	None	
Old Bohemia WMA	Field 1	1 Pit and 1 Blind	Fields may not be reserved until crops are harvested. Exact blind locations may change from year to year. After January 31 sites are first-come, first-serve. Reserved hunters may utilize any part of the field or pond site.
	Field 2	2 Pits	
	Field 3	1 Pit	
	Field 4	1 Pit and 1 Blind	
	Field 5	1 Blind	
	Field 6	1 Blind	
	Field 7	1 Blind	
	Pond Site	1 Blind	
Welch Point MHA	Site 1	None	Sites are located on a peninsula where the Elk River and the C&D Canal come together. After January 31 sites are first-come, first-serve.
	Site 2	1 Blind	
	Site 3	1 Blind	
	Site 4	None	
Millington WMA	Site 1	1 Blind	Reservations only required during the Migratory Canada Goose seasons. Sites may be used during other waterfowl seasons without a reservation or permit. Vehicular access to Site 4, (Old Site 10) is allowed for hunters with a DNR issued Universal Disability Pass. Vehicular access to all other blinds will not be permitted.
	Site 2 (Old 8)	1 Blind	
	Site 3	1 Blind	
	Site 4 (Old 10)	1 Blind	

WATERFOWL HUNTING ON PUBLIC LANDS WITHOUT DESIGNATED SITES

Property	Permit	Reservation	Notes and Restrictions
Avondale WMA	Central	Reservations required Sept 1-Jan 31.	No restrictions. Hunting allowed outside timeframe without a reservation.
Hugg-Thomas WMA			
Hanover Watershed CWMA	Central	Reservations required Sept 1-Feb 15.	No hunting allowed outside reservation dates.
Sawmill CWMA	Central	Reservations required Sept 1-Feb 15, open MWF only.	No duck hunting allowed, only Canada Goose. No hunting allowed outside reservation dates.
Speigel CWMA			
Woodbrook CWMA		Reservations required Sept 1-Feb 15, open MWFS only.	No hunting allowed outside reservation dates.
Bethel MHA	Central	None	Waterfowl hunting allowed anywhere on the pond or in fields. No hunting allowed on the tidal shoreline.
Courthouse Point MHA		Reservations only required for designated blind sites or designated ponds.	Must be 250 yards away from an established blind site. Hunting on tidal shoreline only allowed from established blind sites.
Elk Forest MHA			
Welch Point MHA			
Grove Farm WMA	Central	Reservations are only required during a deer muzzleloader or firearms season (regardless of what you are hunting).	Must be 250 yards away from an established blind site. Hunting on tidal shoreline only allowed from established blind sites.
Earleville WMA			No restrictions.
Old Bohemia WMA			Waterfowl hunting is allowed on Little Bohemia Creek. Fields and Pond must be reserved.
Browns Branch WMA		Reservations required Sept 1-Jan 31.	Waterfowl hunting is allowed along any stream on the WMA without a reservation.
Stoney Demonstration Forest	Central	Reservation required Sept 1-Feb 28.	No hunting allowed outside reservation dates.
Millington WMA	Central	Reservations only required for designated sites during the Migratory Goose season.	Waterfowl hunting is allowed along any stream, pond, impoundment, or field located on the WMA without a permit or reservation. Must be 250 yards away from an established blind site.
Islands of the Potomac WMA	None	None	In Montgomery County, only Mason, Oxley, and Maddox Island may be hunted.
Patuxent River State Park			No restrictions.
Monocacy NRMA			See website for special hunting regulations for hunting adjacent to Monocacy NRMA https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/off_shore_intro.aspx
Seneca Creek State Park River Road Area			No restrictions.
McKee-Beshers WMA			No restrictions.

STATE PARK WATERFOWL SITES

<p>ALL State Park Waterfowl Sites require the Central Region Public Hunting Permit and the Managed Hunt Permit. Sites are WATER ACCESS ONLY and do not have physical blinds. See Page 5 for lottery information. Hunters must be within 50 feet of the blind site marker. Each site is numbered with a post/sign or buoy. Hunting an unoccupied site without a reservation, where one is required, is prohibited. If a sites does not require a reservation (see below) hunters may not be at the site earlier than 2 HOURS BEFORE LEGAL SHOOTING HOURS.</p>		
Property and Site #	Seasons Open	Notes and Restrictions
Gunpowder Falls SP – Days Cove (Sites 1-11)	All Waterfowl Seasons in Baltimore County by reservation or lottery. MHP REQUIRED	Early Resident Goose allowed Mon-Fri (no Saturdays) and must conclude by 9:30am. No hunting on Labor Day. AM Hunting only during 1 st Duck Split, AM/PM hunting the remainder of the seasons. AM Hunters must be off the water by noon. *Site #6 requires a retriever dog.
North Point SP (Sites 12-14)	All Waterfowl Seasons in Baltimore County by first-come, first-served except on lottery days. MHP REQUIRED	Early Resident Goose allowed Mon-Fri (no Saturdays) and must conclude by 9:30am. No hunting on Labor Day. AM Hunting only during 1 st Duck Split, AM/PM hunting the remainder of the seasons. Hunters must stay off the barges at Site 13 for their own safety.
North Point SP – Pleasure Island (15A, 15B, 16A, 16B, 17)	All Waterfowl Seasons in Baltimore County by first-come, first-served except on lottery days. MHP REQUIRED	Early Resident Goose allowed Mon-Fri (no Saturdays) and must conclude by 9:30am. No hunting on Labor Day. Sites 15 and 16 are CLOSED all of September. AM Hunting only during 1 st Duck Split, AM/PM hunting the remainder of the seasons. Sites 15 and 16 each have two locations (A & B) both may be utilized at the same time.
North Point SP – Hart Miller Island (Sites 18-24)	All Waterfowl Seasons in Baltimore County by first-come, first-served except on lottery days. MHP REQUIRED	Early Resident Goose allowed Mon-Fri (no Saturdays) and must conclude by 9:30am. No hunting on Labor Day. Sites 19 and 20 are CLOSED all of September. AM Hunting only during 1 st Duck Split, AM/PM hunting the remainder of the seasons. Sites 18 and 24 must be hunted from a boat with shooting directed over the water.
North Point SP – Back River (Sites BR1, BR2)	All Waterfowl Seasons in Baltimore County by reservation or lottery. MHP REQUIRED	Early Resident Goose allowed Mon-Fri (no Saturdays) and must conclude by 9:30am. No hunting on Labor Day. AM Hunting only during 1 st Duck Split, AM/PM hunting the remainder of the seasons.
Gunpowder Falls SP – Dundee Creek (Sites 26, 27)	3 rd Duck Split, Migratory Canada Goose, and February Junior Waterfowl Day by reservation or lottery. MHP REQUIRED	Hunting is only allowed until 10am. Sites 26 and 27 each have two locations. Hunters may choose one or the other but both may not be hunted at the same time. There is no Site 25.
Elk Neck SP (Sites 28-34)	2 nd & 3 rd Duck Splits, Migratory Canada Goose, and Junior Waterfowl Days by reservation only. MHP REQUIRED	All day hunting, no lotteries. Hunting must be from a boat or standing in the water within 50ft of the buoy.
Susquehanna SP – Sand Islands (Sites 35-38)	All Waterfowl Seasons in Harford County by reservation only. MHP REQUIRED	All day hunting, no lotteries.
Susquehanna SP – River Sites (Sites 39-45)	All Waterfowl Seasons in Harford County by reservation only. MHP REQUIRED	All day hunting, no lotteries. ***On the Susquehanna River a warning siren will sound when the dam is releasing water. *** Caution should be taken during this time. Hunting on Robert's Island is not recommended after 3:00 p.m. Conowingo Spill Conditions: 1-877-457-2525

Gunpowder SP – North Point SP Waterfowl Lotteries

Hunt Date	Sites	Lottery Due	Lottery Drawing	Lottery Rules/Procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An official application (BELOW) must be filled out and returned to the Gwynnbrook Office. • Only one application per hunter per lottery may be submitted. • If drawn, the successful applicant will be issued their 1st choice. If their 1st choice is full, they will be issued their 2nd choice, etc. • Any remaining sites will be unavailable for reservation. Hunters may not hunt an unoccupied site on a lottery day. • Only successful applicants will be notified by mail. • You must have your winning lottery letter on you while hunting. <p>Applicants selected through the lottery need to notify Gwynnbrook if you are adding hunters to your site.</p>
10-10-2020	1-24, BR 1, BR 2	9-11-2020	9-14-2020	
11-14-2020	1-24, BR1, BR2	10-9-2020	10-13-2020	
12-19-2020	1-27, BR1, BR2 (there is no Site 25)	11-6-2020	11-9-2020	

First Split- 1st Saturday October 10, 2020	<p>Gunpowder Waterfowl Lottery Application <u>Due:</u> September 11, 2020 <u>Draw:</u> September 14, 2020</p> <p>Name: _____ Phone: _____ Central Region Permit #: _____ 1st Choice: _____ 2nd Choice: _____ 3rd Choice: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BLIND SITES 1-24, BR1, BR2</p>	Second Split- 1st Saturday November 14, 2020	<p>Gunpowder Waterfowl Lottery Application <u>Due:</u> October 9, 2020 <u>Draw:</u> October 13, 2020</p> <p>Name: _____ Phone: _____ Central Region Permit #: _____ 1st Choice: _____ 2nd Choice: _____ 3rd Choice: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BLIND SITES 1-24, BR1, BR2</p>
Third Split- 1st Saturday December 19, 2020	<p>Gunpowder Waterfowl Lottery Application <u>Due:</u> November 6, 2020 <u>Draw:</u> November 9, 2020</p> <p>Name: _____ Phone: _____ Central Region Permit #: _____ 1st Choice: _____ 2nd Choice: _____ 3rd Choice: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BLIND SITES 1-27, BR1, BR2 (No #25)</p>		
<p>RETURN APPLICATIONS TO:</p> <p>Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife & Heritage Service 3740 Gwynnbrook Avenue Owings Mills, MD 21117</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Applications improperly cut or resized shall be removed from the lottery.</p>			

For more information on hunting properties and programs in the Central Region, please see the full Central Region Public Hunting Program packet that accompanied your permit.